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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Friday, December 17, 2004

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PRESS RELEASE

Colm F. Connolly, United States Attorney for the District of Delaware, announced today that Mark Nepi has entered a guilty plea in the United States District Court to possessing four unregistered firearms. Nepi, who is 27, and lives in the 2700 block of Tanager Drive in Brookmeade II, a Wilmington suburb, was indicted on that charge in August, 2004.

The charge to which Nepi entered a guilty plea alleged that on April 20, 2004, he possessed a Norinco model MAK-90 SPORTER 7.62x39mm caliber machine gun, a silencer, and two AR-15 drop-in auto sears, which were not registered to him under the National Firearms Registration and Transfer Record. Auto sears are parts designed to convert a weapon into a machine gun, and are considered machine guns themselves. Machine guns, silencers and devices designed to convert weapons into machine guns are all defined as firearms under the federal law that requires that certain types of firearms must be registered with the Secretary of the Treasury. Such weapons include fully automatic weapons, or machine guns, sawed-off rifles and shotguns, and silencers. The firearms which are the subject of the plea were discovered in Nepi's residence during a search by officers from the Delaware State Police and State Probation and Parole. Nepi faces up to 10 years imprisonment, a fine of \$250,000, or both. He will be sentenced on March 18, 2005 after a presentence investigation is completed.

In addition to the Delaware State Police and State Probation and Parole Officers, Special Agents from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives participated in the investigation which lead to the indictment and guilty plea. For further information, please contact Assistant United States Ferris W. Wharton at 302-573-6277, ext. 173.

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